

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KATHMA 00317 220535Z

11-R
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
----- 091348
P 210600Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4022

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 0317

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

NEA/INS FOR KUX FROM AMBASSADOR CARGO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, NP
SUBJ: MILITARY SALES TO NEPAL

REF: STATE 012751

1. I HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH POSITION YOU INDICATE IN REFTTEL
ON COMMERCIAL SALES OF NONLETHAL ITEMS TO NEPAL, GIVEN FACT
THAT FMS CREDITS ARE UNAVAILABLE AND RUPEE FUNDS UNAVAILABLE
FOR HOSPITAL. FROM WHAT WE CAN GATHER HERE, ALTHOUGH NEPAL-
ESE ARE INCREASINGLY DISENCHANTED WITH DELAYS IN MILITARY
SUPPLY FROM INDIA, THEY ARE NOT SERIOUSLY LOOKING TO US TO
BECOME MAJOR SUPPLIER EVEN OF THOSE ITEMS IN TONY'S LETTER
OF DECEMBER 23. SOME OF THEIR INTEREST IS IN MODEST PURCHASES
OF EQUIPMENT TO REPLACE THOSE ITEMS WE PROVIDED A DECADE AGO,
E.G., ITEM E ON TONY'S LIST IS A NEWCOMER AND ITEM G IS
ENTIRELY SPECIAL.

2. PRESUMABLY ITEMS SUCH AS MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND HIGH ALTI-
TUDE CLOTHING DO NOT REQUIRE LICENSE AND COULD BE STRAIGHT
COMMERCIAL PURCHASE FROM AMERICAN MANUFACTURER.

3. IN SHORT, AS I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATIO, WHAT YOU ARE
SUGGESTING IN REFTTEL AND I AM ENDORSING DOES NOT REPRESENT
CHANGE FROM CURRENT POLICY, WHICH IS TO CONSIDER
REQUESTS ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS FOR CASH SALES. NONLETHAL
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EQUIPMENT IS IN THE RANGE OF THE FEASIBLE; LETHAL EQUIPMENT

IS ESSENTIALLY NOT. I THINK THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO MAINTAIN OUR CURRENT STANCE OF NOT ENCOURAGING HMG TO LOOK TO US AS A MAJOR ALTERNATE SOURCE OF SUPPLY AND MAKE CLEAR THAT OUR ABILITY TO ASSIST IN THIS WHOLE AREA IS LIMITED.

4. APPRECIATE YOUR OFFER (PARA 3 OF REFTTEL) BUT I DON'T THINK OF ANYTHING YOU CAN DO FOR ME BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE. IT WILL BE GOOD TO HAVE YOU OUT HERE AGAIN. CARGO

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NNN

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